

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:JKBISHOP:PAW
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139893

STADIS/////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DEPUTY ASSISTANT VELIOTES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MASS, MO

SUBJECT: LIMITATIONS ON C-130S

1. ALTHOUGH JIM BISHOP TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND IN A SECURE PHONE CONVERSATION WITH NORM ANDERSON, I UNDERSTAND THERE STILL MAY BE SOME CONFUSION REGARDING OUR MOTIVES IN RAISING THE C-130 ISSUE WITH THE MOROCCANS TWO WEEKS AGO. CONTRARY TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE YOUR ASSUMPTION, OUR INTENT WAS TO BE HELPFUL, TO LET THE MOROCCANS KNOW THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO USE OF THE C-130S, AS LONG AS THEY ASKED FOR OUR CONSENT BEFORE FLYING OFF TO ZAIRE WITH THE AIRCRAFT. WE TRIED TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM BY TELLING BENGELLOUN HE COULD MAKE THE REQUEST BY TELEPHONE AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE GIVEN OUR CONSENT. THIS APPROACH HAD SEVENTH FLOOR CONCURRENCE.

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2. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE LAWYERS LOOKED MORE CLOSELY AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE C-130 SALES THAT WE WERE INFORMED U.S. CONSENT WAS NOT REQUIRED FOR THE PLANES TO BE USED TO TRANSPORT TROOPS TO ZAIRE.

3. I REALIZE OUR BEHAVIOR MUST HAVE PUZZLED THE MOROCCANS AND HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THEM WE WERE TRYING

TO BE HELPFUL. CHRISTOPHER

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